

**UNITED STATES COURTS  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
600 CAMP STREET, ROOM 100  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 2019

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**PRESS RELEASE**

On October 1, 2019, Judge Priscilla Richman Owen of Austin, Texas, becomes the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which hears appeals from federal courts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and appeals from administrative and regulatory agencies. Judge Owen succeeds Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart, whose chief judgeship ends on September 30.

Judge Owen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1976, *cum laude*, from Baylor University. She received her J.D. *cum laude* from Baylor University School of Law in 1977, where she served on the Baylor Law Review. She received the highest score on the November 1977 Texas bar examination at age 23.

After law school, Judge Owen joined the firm of Andrews & Kurth in Houston, Texas, where she handled a broad range of civil matters at the trial and appellate levels, until 1994, when she was elected to serve on the Supreme Court of Texas. She was reelected in 2000.

President George W. Bush appointed Judge Owen to serve as a United States Circuit Judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. She took the oath of office on June 6, 2005, succeeding Judge William L. Garwood.